

Committee is proposing a 2 percent across-the-board cut of 4.7 million of all governmental subdivision entities, but that doesn't touch NRDs. It doesn't touch NRDs. They're not going to get any cut. They are going to get an increase. I see where they are going to take the Medicaid organ transplants \$320,000 and cut it. That is very important. You save somebody's life, but we're going to cut that. So I can go down the list and go on and on and on and show where they're trying to cut, but when it comes to NRDs, no, we're going to let them increase. Now this isn't enabling legislation. This does not stop or destroy what Senator Schmit was talking about. They can do those things. If they're as serious as they seem to be, all they have to do is sell the idea and vote a mill levy increase. That's all they have to do and I say all they have to do because if they put their mind to it and if it is important that they do this as everybody has tried to show us on the floor, they can do it. Now I'm going to support the bill, the changing in the memberships. I think that's good. I think it is basically a good bill but the only thing I am saying to this body is let's leave the mill levy where it is. If they need more money, we're not capping them. They can go as high as they want to. They can go to 6 cents, 5 cents, 10 cents, it doesn't make any difference. They can do any project they want to if the local people want to pay for it. So I guess I'll end up by saying that I'm a little, I guess, confused to say on one hand, we're cutting all the governmental agencies 2 percent, but we take this one little agency over here and say, no, they're different. They are going to take more property tax money. We should give them that right. But on the other hand, cut that budget. So I guess I'd have to draw the same parallel that what's fair on across-the-board cut, and what's fair for all the rest of the things that this body might cut, it's fair that if the NRDs want an increase let them vote it on their districts and then they can do their thing. We do not, I feel, have the moral right to foster onto the people of the State of Nebraska, to give away their authority to decide. With that, Mr. President, I'll close. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. The question is the adoption of the Haberman amendment. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Senator Haberman.

SENATOR HABERMAN: (Microphone not turned on immediately.)
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PRESIDENT: A call of the house has been called for. All those